To test the intake time of each sample, each sample was tested with each of the four types of surge layers, using the procedure described immediately following, in which three 35 mL insults are applied to each sample. The results of this test for Codes 1-5 are shown in the chart in Fig. 6 and the results of this test for Codes 6-8 are shown in the chart in Fig. 7. As can be seen in Figs. 6 and 7, the lowest consistent intake time was observed in the samples made using the 100 gsm second surge layer, described above, with the intake time of each of the samples being fairly consistent with one another.

a1

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims 12-14 and 31-33 with the following amended Claims 12-14 and 31-33:

12. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.65.

a2

13. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.75.

14. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.85.

31. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.65.

a3

32. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.75.

33. (Amended) The absorbent pad of Claim 21, wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel strength of at least 0.85.